

SS InTouch – December

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **State Board of Education** – In a letter to the Indiana General Assembly, the Indiana State Board of Education has asked for the legislature's support of the new statewide assessment plan. The State Board also asks for authority to require schools to participate in the Core 40 End of Course Assessments for accountability purposes and to require high schools to add the Core 40 Assessment results to the high school transcript.
- **New Statewide Assessment** – Few new details about Indiana's new State Assessment Program to replace ISTEP+ and the GQE are available. However, you can read a memo from the IDOE's Division of Student Assessment summarizing the information that we know at www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling under Hot Topics.
- **Indiana School Counselor Survey** – More than 870 Indiana school counselors completed our Indiana School Counselor Survey last spring – and the results are in. A press release and summary of the results will be held during National School Counselor Week in February, 2008.

ISCA, ICA or IACAC may be contacting you soon to ask for your help finding students willing to talk about how a school counselor or a counseling program has made a positive difference in their life. Those stories, along with the results of the survey, can make a significant impact.

- **Activities for the Learn More K-12 Mini-Magazines** – We've developed brief activities and lesson plans that you can use in the classroom for each of the K-12 Learn More Student Success Magazines. Each of the activities is short and is connected to specific pages of the magazine for EACH grade level. You can find these "mini-guidance lessons" on our IDOE School Counselor website at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/classroom_guidance_lessons.pdf

Don't forget you can download individual pages from ANY of the Learn More Student Success Magazines, at

<http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/k12academics/Pages/publications.aspx>

- **The Universal Encouragement Program** is a free online student guidance assessment for use by schools and education support programs. Guidance assessments enable counselors and education support professionals to:
 - Improve academic and career counseling,
 - Identify gaps in postsecondary and career preparation,
 - Reveal guidance programming needs and opportunities, and
 - Indicate progress in meeting guidance objectives.

For more information, and to register your school or program, go to

<http://www.capenetwork.org>. The Career and Postsecondary Education Network is a program of Encouragement Services, Inc.

- **High Ability Training** – Counselors are invited to one of the FREE High Ability workshops this spring which can help you develop the newly required Guidance & Counseling Plan for high ability students in your district (read the legislation at www.doe.state.in.us/exceptional/gt)

Registration for the February 29th training in Bloomington is not available yet but will be online at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/exceptional/gt/> - click on "Events and Training"

Registration for the March 7th training in Merrillville is at www.nwiesc.k12.in.us

The training sessions will be led by Ginny Burney and Kristie Speirs Neumeister and will focus on the development of an affective curriculum for these students.

- **Give the Gift of Your...Stuff** - In the category of “why reinvent the wheel” we are gathering common forms that Indiana school counselors use at each grade level over the Christmas holiday. These could be forms for referrals, 504, scheduling, student assistance, passes to see the counselor, course changes, etc, etc.

If you're in the “giving” mood over the holidays – take a minute to e-mail us any forms or documents or Powerpoints (etc) you feel comfortable sharing – and we'll put them on our website as “Sample Forms” for other counselors in your grade level. Thanks.

- **Elementary School Counselor Updates**

- Read highlights from the International Bullying Prevention Association Conference at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/int'l_bullying_conference.pdf
- If you have a great Character Education program at your elementary school you might be interested in the Ernest L. Boyer 2008 Best Practices Award for Character Education which provides \$10,000 to up to three elementary schools. It's a national award and the deadline is January 15th. Find details and an application at http://www.messiah.edu/boyer_center/news/documents/BestPracticesapplication2008.pdf

- **Middle School Counselor Updates**

- We're working over the holidays to add more Middle School Guidance Lessons to the IDOE SC website. If you have electronic copies of MS Guidance Lessons (especially in the areas of Academic and Citizenship Guidance Development) please attach them in an e-mail reply. You can see the lesson plans we currently have at <http://www.indianastandardsresources.org/standardSummary.asp?Subject=gui&Grade>
- An updated 8th grade Powerpoint presentation to explain Core 40 and the Honors diplomas is now available on the IDOE School Counselor website at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/program_management.html#1 It's a framework to use if you wish that allows you to add much more information specific to your school.
- Read highlights from the International Bullying Prevention Association Conference at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/int'l_bullying_conference.pdf

- **High School Counselor Updates**

- You can find a list of ALL of the new high school course titles under “Hot Topics” on our IDOE School Counseling website at www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling A second document, also on this webpage, gives further explanations for the course title changes as well as course descriptions. A new summary document of high school course information – developed just for Indiana high school counselors – should be available soon.
- Thanks to all of you who have returned your 9th and 11th grade Learn More Student Surveys. The absolute deadline for returning surveys has been extended until Friday, December 14th. Surveys received after that date may not be included in the April 2008 results. You can also download your individual school's survey results for 9th and 11th graders from last year at <http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/counselors/highschool/Pages/SurveyData.aspx>
- Remember that EVERY student in Biology I (no matter what graduating class) must take the Biology I ECA this year in order for your school to meet NCLB requirements. Schools don't have to attain a specific pass rate – you just need to have 95% participation by students in Biology.

- You can now send e-Transcripts between high schools! Tammy Baden (tbaden@docufide.com) will send you a simple Powerpoint explanation of how to do it (it takes 10 minutes to look at) if you e-mail her.
 - For a quick eSSR tutorial – go to www.docufide.com/essr
 - For “just the basics” of e-Transcripts go to - www.imtcorp.com/toolbook/df5
 - If you have e-Transcript questions contact Catisha Coates catishac@che.in.gov or Tammy Baden at tbaden@docufide.com
- If you haven’t already seen it - check out IU’s new admissions policies for 2011 under “Hot Topics” at our website www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling The new requirements include 7 semesters of math – (excluding Discrete Math or Prob/Stat) and four credits of World Languages.
- If you’re considering a new Student Information System (SIS) – go to our High School Counselor website at www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/highschool/academic_guidance.html and scroll down to “Indiana HS Counselor Ratings of Student Information Systems” to see how Indiana high school counselors rated their SIS. The first column of grades indicates the ease of use and the second column is an overall grade for the SIS.
- A new Powerpoint about the new Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma has been added to the Program Management portion of our website at http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/program_management.html Feel free to download and use (note – you may also have to download the videos and put them on your desktop in order for the videos to play).
- Thanks for your responses to last month’s survey question about combining fall workshops. 16 favored no change, 35 preferred IDOE and SSACI workshops, 34 choose a combination of an IDOE workshop plus another pm workshop, and 25 wanted College Board and ACT workshops combined.

Resources

- Independent Colleges of Indiana is offering free campus tours to Indiana school counselors this Spring and Summer. Find more details and register at <http://www.indianacollegechoices.org/counselors/tourinfo.asp>
- If you’re a High School looking for adding to your financial aid night presentation, Nelnet offers FREE “paying for college” presentation to Junior students and their parents called “Jump Start for Juniors” to any high school in the state. The workshops are done at your high school either during the day (with juniors – usually in an English 11 or US History class – and usually in the computer lab) or with parents and students in the evening (usually a 1 to 1 ½ hour presentation). Nelnet promises no sales pitch but multiple resources are mentioned. If interested contact Nelnet at 866.866.7372 and ask for Susan Tharp.
- Scholarship applications are now available for juniors and seniors interested in a \$2,000 scholarship through the **Hoosier Heroes – 2008 Scholarship Program**. Indiana high school juniors and seniors nominate a living Hoosier (a current or former resident of Indiana) who inspires them. Ten winners will receive a \$2,000 postsecondary scholarship. The deadline is January 31st, 2008. For complete instructions, examples of winning nominations, writing resources and rubrics, go to www.HoosierHeroes.org

Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.state.in.us/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at www.doe.state.in.us/schoolcounseling under "Resources"

Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.state.in.us – 317-232-9136 or Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – mfleck@doe.state.in.us